

**Applicant:** Rein Tigane  
**Application No.:** 10/511,635

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) External combustion engine, comprising a body, at least one working chamber, combustion chamber, crankcase and compression chamber, at least one working piston, compression piston and crank mechanism, and a valve assembly gear and a heat exchanger, wherein the required air is drawn by suction via valves ~~or equivalent~~ from the air surrounding the engine, and wherein the expanded hot air is directed after the working cycle from the working chamber through a valve or past the heater into the combustion chamber, to be used as combustion air, ~~characterized in that~~ and wherein the air used as working gas is drawn by suction through a valve into the crankcase, where the air is pre-compressed and from where the pre-compressed air can be moved through a valve into the compression chamber.

2. (Currently Amended) Engine according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in an isochoric phase of the process, the working air is preheated by the exhaust gas from the combustion chamber by means of the heat exchanger.

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3. (Currently Amended) Engine according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein control of power by reducing the mean pressure is accomplished by reducing the compression volume of the compression chamber by means of a power control and starting valve.

4. (Currently Amended) Engine according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the machine has a substantially tubular body containing a crank mechanism and two pistons moving in a phased manner in opposite directions.

5. (Currently Amended) Engine according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the hot air can be passed through an opened valve via a pressure equalization chamber and pressure compensating valves into the combustion chamber and/or to a burner.